(b) to (d) The work of Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) of oustees of the project has already been completed by the State Government. Out of the 3180 number of families affected, 526 families have been shifted to 4 Rehabilitation Camps developed as per the R&R policy of the Government of Orissa. The remaining families were paid cash compensation at the rate of Rs. 14.040 per family as they opted for self-rehabilitation.

Ganga-Cauvery linkage scheme

780. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would come forward to constitute an expert committee to find out the feasibility to link the rivers in South India as a precursor to succeed long pending prestigious scheme of National pride i.e. Ganga-Cauvery linkage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ganga Cauvery link as proposed by Dr. K.L. Rao was examined by the Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides the proposal also required a large block of power and was devoid of any flood control benefits. However, the Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of india has established National Water Development Agency as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National perspective plan.

Projects to Generate Irrigation Potential

†781. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constructed a

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

number of projects to generate irrigation potential in the country;

(b) if so, the total irrigation potential generated so far in the country since Independence as well as total amount spent so far for this purpose; and

(c) the irrigation potential estimated to be generated in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) To generate irrigation potential in the country a large number of irrigation projects have been constructed by the State Governments.

(b) The total irrigation potential created through Major, Medium & Minor irrigation projects starting from the inception of Plan-era 1951-52 upto the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (March 1997) is 66.96 million hectares for which an amount of Rs. 68,770.14 crore has been spent.

(c) A target of 17.05 million hectares has been fixed for creation of irrigation potential during the current Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997—2002).

Construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam

782. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam in the light of last proceedings of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) what specific efforts being made for Dam to attain an obligatory minimum level of 110 metre by June, 1999;

(c) the progress made for shifting the Project-affected families by the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(d) the efforts being made to remove obstacle for timely implementation of the Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) In pursuance of the interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.2.99, the spillway blocks of the Sardar Sarovar Dam have been